

# Freedom

December 5, 2004

*Watch*



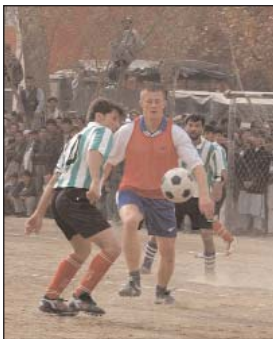
***Soccer brings Coalition, Afghans together***  
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Spc. Claudia Bullard

## Giving thanks

Gen. John P. Abizaid, U.S. Central Command commander, shares Thanksgiving dinner with deployed service members at Kandahar Airfield Nov. 25. Though deployed troops weren't able to spend the day with their families, military families pulled together to enjoy the spirit of the holiday. Abizaid spent the day visiting with troops deployed throughout Afghanistan, thanking them for their service in Operation Enduring Freedom.



Coalition members of Team Eagle, named after Task Force Eagle, played a friendly game of soccer against the Parwan Youth Soccer Team in Charikar village Nov. 22. The Afghans defeated the Coalition team 3-1 after 60 minutes of play. The organizers hope to have future games as a means of building rapport with the local community.

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# Freedom Watch

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Public Affairs Officer – Lt. Col. Pamela V. Keeton

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# Vice chairman visits deployed troops

## Marine general brings message of gratitude from United States

Story by Sgt. Stephanie L. Carl  
17th Public Affairs Detachment

BAGRAM AIR BASE, Afghanistan — The vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff visited service members in Afghanistan Nov. 22, passing on an important message of gratitude from people in the United States.

"Thank you for what you are doing," said Marine Gen. Peter Pace. "People always come up to me and thank me for what I do, and I reply, 'It's not me, it's the troops in the field.'"

After meeting with troops at Kandahar Airfield, Pace flew to Bagram Air Base, where he joined a group of Combined Joint Task Force-76 service members for dinner, fielding questions from the deployed troops about everything from the Global War on Terrorism to his day-to-day responsibilities.

"Ask me anything and I'll give you an



Spc. Claudia Bullard

**Marine Gen. Peter Pace praises Soldiers of 3rd Bn., 7th FA Rgt., for their efforts in OEF during a visit to Kandahar Airfield Nov. 22.**

answer. If I don't have the answer, I'll make something up," he said with a laugh, encouraging the troops to present their thoughts and questions.

One Marine sergeant looked to Pace for advice in talking to loved ones back home. He has found it challenging to communicate effectively with his family while maintaining operational security.

"Tell them about your experiences over here," replied the 37-year veteran. "It's those experiences that are going to help them understand why you're here and what you're doing."

Pace explained to the service members the importance of their mission in Afghanistan and congratulated them on a job well done.

"All our fighting forces should collectively feel good about what's been accomplished," he said. "Your sacrifice is making a difference. I've seen a remarkable change in Afghanistan in the past year. Here, the election has been a huge turning point."

Now that the presidential

election is complete, the focus in Afghanistan is on reconstruction and, in the spring, parliamentary elections.

Thanks to the progress that has taken place, the Afghan people were able to celebrate the observance of Ramadan without incident. A point Pace believes service members can keep in mind during their own holiday season to help them stay focused and motivated.

"Holidays are traditionally a time for renewing friendships," he said. "The sacrifice our service members are making during our holiday season made it possible for the Afghan people to celebrate their holiday peacefully for the first time ever."

With that in mind, Pace thanked the families and troops for the sacrifices that come with serving the Nation.

"The sacrifices of the families are at least equal to those of the service members," he said. "We owe a great debt to them."

That debt can never be repaid, and the sacrifice can never be recovered, said Pace. There's no monetary equivalent that could ever account for the things lost during combat, but the gratitude of others goes a long way, especially during the holidays.

"We are all proud of our troops," said Pace. "The vast majority of our fellow Americans understand and appreciate the sacrifice. On behalf of myself and everyone back home, thank you all for what you do."



Sgt. Stephanie L. Carl

**Pace presents a coin of excellence to a Marine from 2nd Bn., 5th Marines, during a dinner at Bagram Air Base Nov. 22.**

# Leadership seminar focuses on ANA progression

Story and photos by  
Spc. Joe McFarren  
Office of Military Cooperation –  
Afghanistan

KABUL, Afghanistan — Amidst the high ceilings and marble floors of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs building, the upper echelon of the Afghan

National Army held a four-day seminar with the corps and brigade commanders of the ANA and mentorship staff from Combined Joint Task Force Phoenix Nov. 7-10.

More than 100 U.S. and Afghan soldiers met to discuss, mentor and train each other on better ways of handling training

operations for the ANA.

The target audience was the five ANA corps commanders, their brigade commanders, and the training and operations officers for each of the five corps.

“We saw the need for a seminar like this with the stand-up of four new corps bases in the region of Kandahar, Gardez, Mazar-e-Sharif and Herat,” said Brig. Gen. Richard Moorhead, CJTF Phoenix commander. “As the ANA force is getting larger and based in many different locations, there is a need for a centralized training management planning with a decentralized training execution.”

Moorhead and Lt. Gen. Shir Mohammad Karimi, the ANA training and operations officer, recognized the need for a more uniform method of training for ANA soldiers.

Once the need for a seminar was identified, Karimi took charge, handling the majority of the planning for the event, spending countless hours reviewing all the material that was going to be presented, and ensuring that subject matter was translated correctly between Dari and English.

“Lt. Gen. Karimi just took the bull by the horns,” said Moorhead.

The seminar was broken into 11 different sections of American-style military training

methods that were taught by members of Military Professional Resources Incorporated, a private company that provides security-related training for government leaders of the United States and selected foreign countries.

One of the main focuses of the seminar was training management.

“This is the first time that the training management was taught beyond the general staff level of the ANA, and began really teaching it down to the field,” said Dan Challis, an MPRI system developer for training management.

The main portion of the training seminar was the practical application in which the leaders broke down into groups to break down a training cycle for a given mission and present it in front of their fellow soldiers.

“The groups were very beneficial,” said ANA Central Corps Commander Mohammad Moeen. “We learned to use evaluation and after action reviews to increase the combat preparation of our units and train according to mission orders rather than just go fight. In order for us to be able to understand how to be a modern army, we must learn how a modern army functions. And we learned that here.”



Above: Maj. Darrell Paskett, OMC – A, works with members of his breakout group during the Senior Leader Training Management Seminar at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Nov. 8.

Right: Attendees at the seminar sit in group session before moving into smaller breakout groups. Each of the smaller groups worked on a practical exercise to develop a training cycle for a given mission.





# Deployed service members find escape between pages

Story by Sgt. 1st Class Matthew Fearing  
105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

BAGRAM AIR BASE, Afghanistan — Reading. For many it provides mental exercise. For some it is a means of information. For others it is simply entertainment.

But the results of a recent survey conducted by the National Endowment for the Arts show that less than half of American adults read literature. NEA Chairman Dana Gioia calls this a national crisis. The survey, *Reading at Risk: A Survey of Literary Reading in America*, was released July 8, and shows a marked decline in reading at all levels among Americans.

Many military members find relief in books. For those deployed to Afghanistan, reading can provide a temporary escape from the stresses of the combat zone. It is an activity that helps keep one's mind sharp.

For those serving in Operation Enduring Freedom, books are available at Morale, Welfare and Recreation facilities and paperback libraries all over the country.

Some Web sites, such as [www.BooksforSoldiers.com](http://www.BooksforSoldiers.com), provide an opportunity to request specific books. Some opt for books in care packages from home.

There are opportunities to improve reading while deployed. There are also opportunities to study reading and literature.

The Education Center at Bagram Air Base has programs for military members and civilians supporting OEF to enhance reading skills. The learning center offers basic reading improvement, said Jennifer Anderle, an Army Continuing Education System counselor's aide. A Test of Adult Basic Education assesses reading comprehension and math skills.

English and Literature courses at the college level are available

to service members both online and through the education center. Upfront tuition assistance for courses through accredited schools is available for those who would like to take these or other courses. Those interested can contact their nearest education center representative.

Tastes in reading vary. Some like mysteries. Some like non-fiction. Many have very eclectic tastes.

Command Sgt. Maj. Mark Bowman, Bagram base operations command sergeant major, said he is reading Patrick O'Brian's "Master and Commander." Bowman, a schoolteacher from Chicago when not deployed, enjoys reading and encourages the hobby.

Lt. Col. Tim Nye, U.S. Special Operations Command, said he just finished reading a werewolf novel, "Blue Moon." In hearing that less than half of American adults read literature, Nye was not surprised.

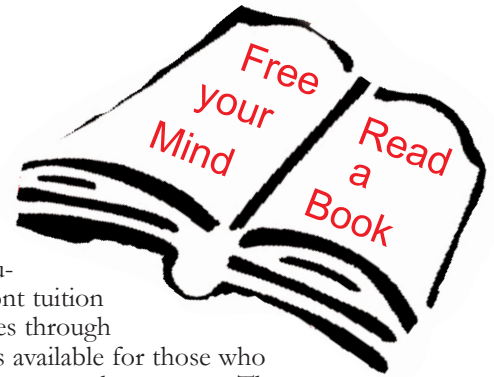
"It's understandable. We're in an electronically focused world. Books have lost their place as the main source of entertainment. It's a shame."

Taking advantage of being in Afghanistan, J.B. Carrico, Bagram Air Base Education Center counselor's aide, is reading "Ghost Wars."

"It's about Afghanistan. It's really good," said Carrico.

Reading can be a great outlet when deployed. According to Mason Cooley, an American author, "Reading gives us someplace to go when we have to stay where we are."

Take a trip without going anywhere. Read.



## Enduring Voices

*What books would you recommend for others to read?*



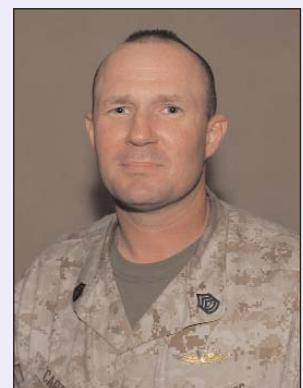
**Sgt. Steve Abbott**  
TF 168  
" 'Taliban' and anything by Clive Cussler."



**1st Lt. Shawn Goldwire**  
Co. C, 72nd Sig. Bn.  
" 'The Island of the Blue Dolphin.' "



**Spc. Justin Robinett**  
221st Ord. Co.  
"Anything by Dean Koontz, Stephen King or Anne Rice."



**Marine Gunnery Sgt. Roy-Paul Carter**  
MARCENT Coordination Element  
" 'The Purpose-Driven Life.' "

# Stonewallers dedicate camp to fallen comrades

## 29th ID(L) Soldiers' service recognized during ceremony

Story and photos by  
Spc. Chris Stump  
17th Public Affairs Detachment

BAGRAM AIR BASE, Afghanistan — Giving fallen Soldiers a truly fitting memorial is never an easy task, but members of the Virginia National Guard paid tribute to two of their own Nov. 18 by dedicating their camp to them.

Camp Bulldog on Bagram Air Base was officially renamed Camp Cherry-Beasley, after Staff Sgt. Craig Cherry and Sgt. Bobby Beasley, both of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3rd Battalion, 116th Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade, 29th Infantry Division (Light), Virginia National Guard. The two were killed in action in Ghazni province Aug. 7.

The Soldiers of Cherry and Beasley's unit who attended the ceremony were also awarded shoulder sleeve insignia for former wartime service, Combat Infantrymen's Badges and Combat Medical Badges, something Cherry and Beasley would have appreciated, said 1st Sgt. Bob Golloday, HHC, 3rd Bn., 116th Inf. Rgt., first sergeant.

"They were real field Soldiers," said Golloday. "Once you got them into the field, you couldn't get them out. They loved what they were doing."

The two noncommissioned officers were part of a long line of Soldiers from a unit who have been fighting, and in many cases dying, for the rights and freedoms they believe in.

Since 1742, Soldiers from Virginia have taken up arms against those who wished to do harm to their commonwealth and country.

From the French and Indian Wars to the sands of the Middle East, infantrymen like Cherry and Beasley have been doing their part.

The "Stonewallers" of 3rd Bn., 116th Inf. Rgt., have one of the oldest and most storied lineages in the military.

The "combat patch" awarded during the ceremony, signifies not only

the service of those here, but everyone in the 116th Inf. Rgt. who has fought, from the American Civil War to Omaha Beach, and now the rugged mountains and scorching valleys of Afghanistan.

The 29th ID (L) patch is colored blue and gray to represent the "War Between the States," and has been authorized for combat veterans since World War II, but until now, has only been worn by veterans of that conflict. It will be one of the rarest division-level patches in the Army awarded for wartime service.

Awarding the distinguished blue and gray combat patch, CIB and CMB, while at the same time honoring two of their own, was meant as a tribute to the fallen who are missed greatly by their comrades.

"It's a great tribute to them. Now there's something permanent on Bagram to remember these guys," said Spc. Matthew Maloney, HHC, 3rd Bn., 116th Inf. Rgt., a platoon-mate to both Cherry and Beasley.

"They would have enjoyed (the ceremony) very much. And they would've been among the (proudest) members of the battalion to receive both the combat patch and CIBs.

"They were outstanding guys," he added. "They would do anything for anyone. They would give you the shirt off their backs."

Everyone in Cherry and Beasley's company misses their fellow Soldiers and are glad they could pay tribute to them, but they know they must drive on with their mission, something Cherry and Beasley would do if they were with the unit.

"It's an honor to receive all the awards," said Sgt. Allen Peer, HHC, 3rd Bn., 116th Inf. Rgt. "But, they were really great guys and that what's important. It was a real honor to serve with those guys."



**Above:** Leaders of 3rd Bn., 116th Inf. Rgt., uncover the sign that will stand at the entrance to their camp. Camp Cherry-Beasley was dedicated to Staff Sgt. Craig Cherry and Sgt. Bobby Beasley, both of HHC, 3rd Bn., 116th Inf. Rgt., who were killed in action in Ghazni province Aug. 7.

**Top:** 1st Sgt. Bob Golladay, HHC, 3rd Bn., 116th Inf. Rgt., 29th ID (L), pins the 29th ID (L) shoulder sleeve insignia on the right sleeve of one of his Soldiers.



# ESGR helps service members succeed

Story by  
Sgt. Stephanie L. Carl  
17th Public Affairs Detachment

BAGRAM AIR BASE, Afghanistan — Behind nearly every deployed National Guardsman or reservist, there is a civilian employer who is waiting for their employee to return.

Most civilian employers support their service members by holding positions for them, while some even maintain insurance benefits. The better relationship these deployed citizen-Soldiers maintain with their employer, the better their reintegration is likely to be upon redeployment.

“Troops need to take the time to involve their employers in what they are doing,” said Maj. Gen. Steve Read, U.S. Army Reserve readiness commander. “If Soldiers keep their employers informed and abreast of what’s going on, the employers will tend to be more receptive.”

The first step in keeping employers informed is ensuring they know the initial time frame for a deployment — when the deployment is expected to start and approximately how long it will last.

## ARA Contact Information

Army Reserve Affairs Office — DSN 318-231-4353

Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve —  
[www.esgr.com](http://www.esgr.com)

USERRA — [www.osc.gov/usera.htm](http://www.osc.gov/usera.htm)

Veterans Employment and Training Service —  
[www.dol.gov/vets](http://www.dol.gov/vets)

The Army Reserve Affairs office is located in Motel 6, Room 207 on Bagram Air Base. ARA personnel are able to assist service members from all branches of service. They can also assist active duty service members who are interested in joining the Reserves upon exiting the active component.

All National Guardsmen and reservists fall under the guidelines of the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act. This act provides strict guidance for both service members and employers.

Some employers choose to go above and beyond what USERRA requires.

“There have been some employers who have continued health insurance during deployments, or at least until the service members are able to pick up their Tricare benefits,” said Master Sgt. Gregory Jacobs, Army Reserve Affairs retention noncommissioned

officer for Afghanistan.

These benefits help the families who are left behind, and they help the Soldiers by easing the stress a deployment can induce.

To recognize those employers who go out of their way to support armed forces personnel, there are various awards at both the state and federal level.

“In the civilian world there really are no awards,” said Lt. Col. Charles Kirchen, ARA officer in charge for Afghanistan. “To many employers, it is a big deal to get these awards.”

It’s up to the individual serv-

ice members to recommend their employers for awards. This can be done through the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Web site. But there are other ways to show appreciation as well.

“Soldiers can show their appreciation very easily,” said Capt. James Carmichael, 221st Ordnance Company commander, U.S. Army Reserves, based out of Fort Wayne, Ind. “Something as simple as having a flag flown in their honor and presenting it with a certificate can mean a lot to an employer.”

In addition to small tokens of appreciation, service members should continue to communicate with their employers throughout their deployment.

“Stay in touch with them, let them know you’re alright,” advised Sgt. Maj. Scott White, ARA senior enlisted adviser for Afghanistan. “Employers are just as concerned about the well-being of their Soldiers as anyone else — they want to know you’re being taken care of.”

In the end, it all goes back to communication, said White.

“If you’re up front and honest with your employer,” he said, “they will be able to support you better.”



## PHOTOS FROM THE FIELD

Staff Sgt. Jay Jensen, Gardez PRT medic, raises the U.S. flag above the PRT’s qalat, or compound, just outside the city of Gardez in eastern Afghanistan. Jensen and other members of the PRT are instrumental in providing security and conducting stability missions in the region.

Photo by Sgt. Phillip Stukenholtz  
Gardez PRT

If you have high quality photos of service members supporting the Coalition mission or enjoying well-deserved off-duty time, please e-mail them to [carls@baf.afgn.army.mil](mailto:carls@baf.afgn.army.mil). Please include full identification and caption information, including who is in the photo and what action is taking place.

# Air assets keep troops moving, supplied

Story by Spc. Dijon Rolle  
17th Public Affairs Detachment

KANDAHAR AIRFIELD, Afghanistan — Moving troops and equipment to the battlefield quickly and effectively is an important part of any successful combat operation.

Aviators from Task Force Diamondhead are helping to ensure the success of the Coalition by providing air support for various missions throughout the southern region of Afghanistan.

This support often comes in the form of air assault missions, during which aviation assets are used to rapidly insert ground troops and equipment into remote locations. The air support can also be in the form of resupply.

Regardless of the specific task, each mission is a carefully orchestrated operation between Task Force Diamondhead and the requesting unit. Air support has proven itself to be not only faster, but more effective, than ground convoys for deployed troops serving across Afghanistan.

"Here in Afghanistan, the majority of the movement that we do is by aircraft," said Maj. Robert Ault, Task Force Diamondhead Operations officer. "The distances here are pretty great and Afghanistan doesn't always have the highway infrastructure system or roads to be able to move around."

"If you want to move large concentrations of Soldiers, troops or supplies, or evacuate personnel, we rely on aircraft to do that — and that's where Task Force Diamondhead comes in."

A major benefit of using air assets to move troops and supplies is the added safety. The aircraft lands just long enough to



Video Still by Spc. Dijon Rolle

**Soldiers from Co. A, 2nd Bn., 35th Inf. Rgt., rush away from an aircraft during a combat air assault.**

drop off personnel and equipment, before leaving the area.

"We can move them in quickly and move them out a lot quicker than you can on a ground convoy," said Staff Sgt. Deddra French, Task Force Diamondhead operations noncommissioned officer. "It's a lot easier to move a larger amount with the aircraft than with the convoy, and we can use the element of surprise with the air assault."

Soldiers said they are also pleased with the benefits of the air assault.

"With the air assault, we can position troops better and there's less (of a risk)," said Spc. Tambouzi Green, Company A, 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry Regiment, team leader. "It positions me with my team and helps me to maneuver better with them on the battlefield. Once we land, we have a better idea of what needs to be done and where we need to go."

Air assault missions not only insert ground troops directly into a desired loca-

tion, but supplies and equipment as well.

"As infantry, we're already carrying a lot of gear," said Staff Sgt. Kenrick Rampersad, Company A, 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry Regiment, squad leader. "This makes it a little easier for us to move our Soldiers and all of our equipment from one point to another. We can fit a whole platoon in one Chinook."

After the initial air assault mission is complete, the aircraft often make a second trip to the area to drop off supplies like food, water and fuel that ground troops will need to successfully accomplish their mission.

"It aids the commander and his decision making process, and allows him to move personnel and equipment around the battlefield more effectively," said Staff Sgt. Bruce Bryant, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Bn., 35th Inf. Rgt., support platoon sergeant. "This helps us accomplish our mission and meet the commander's intent."



Spc. Claudia Bullard

## Tending the herd...

**Capt. Nicholas Bobrowski, 3rd Battalion, 7th Field Artillery Regiment, and the Argendab district elder inspect a gift of 10 goats and 10 sheep presented to district leaders Nov. 16 for Eid al Fitr, a celebration marking the end of the Muslim fast of Ramadan. Lt. Col. Clarence Neason, 3rd Bn., 7th FA Rgt., commander, sent the gift, which also included 15 bags of rice, to local leaders to thank them for their cooperation with humanitarian projects Coalition forces have been completing in southeastern Afghanistan.**



# Mission focus key to success in OEF

Story by Sgt. 1st Class Darren Heusel  
17th Public Affairs Detachment

KABUL, Afghanistan — After 31 years in the military, Command Sgt. Maj. Cynthia Pritchett said she feels right at home in her capacity as command sergeant major for Combined Forces Command – Afghanistan.

As has been the case throughout her career, Pritchett said she is happiest when she's around troops "in the heat of battle," like when she was a drill sergeant, a first sergeant, a command sergeant major in Somalia and most recently at the Combined Arms Center in Fort Leavenworth, Kan.

"Having the opportunity to see the troops here in the fight doing their jobs day in and day out is very gratifying," said Pritchett, who assumed her current duties May 9, after being hand-picked to come to Afghanistan by CFC-A commander, Lt. Gen. David Barno.

Now, a little more than six months into her tour, Pritchett said she's enjoying what she's meant to do, and that's being around people.

Pritchett, a native of Concord, N.H.,

who now hails from Brighton, Mich., said she loved her job back at Fort Leavenworth. But to have the opportunity to "get back out in the field" was one she couldn't pass up.

"I lost several friends in the Pentagon (Sept. 11, 2001), and when you're in theater, it seems like you have a more direct role in the fight against terrorism," she said.

As the senior enlisted person in Afghanistan, Pritchett said her priorities are to ensure the needs of every Soldier, Sailor, Airman and Marine are being met, and the CFC-A headquarters continues to grow and function as a bona fide command.

Other priorities of the command sergeant major include safety, pre-deployment training, cultural awareness, force protection and basically improving the overall quality of life for all those in Afghanistan.

"Of course, with progress comes inconvenience," she said. "But if we're going to live here, we should provide the best environment we can for all our troops. The challenge lies in managing those expectations."

Part of that challenge also lies in learning how to balance a U.S.-led Coalition that consists of just about every branch of service and more than 18 countries.

"It's easy to be very Army-centric, because we have the bulk of the forces here," she said. "You also have to understand why certain things happen in a service culture."

The key to understanding, said Pritchett, is communication, building relationships and respecting differences.

"We have to respect the goals and wishes of our Coalition partners," she said. "At the same time, I think it's a great learning experience. It opens your mind to new ideas and new challenges."

What has impressed the command sergeant major most during her time in Afghanistan is the people – not just from the 18,000-member United States contingent, but from the entire Coalition, including civilians.

"When I go out to the forward operating bases, I'm just constantly amazed and impressed whenever I see these troops executing the commander's intent," she said.

Pritchett said one of the challenges that remains is to continue to stay focused on the ever-changing mission, as the government of Afghanistan becomes more sovereign.

"Yes, eliminating al-Qaeda and the Taliban is part of our mission, but there are other aspects of our mission as well," she said. "As the mission evolves into one of reconstruction and reconciliation and building security capacity, we have to evolve with it and ensure the Soldiers understand what we're doing and stay focused."

With the holidays rapidly approaching, Pritchett said one way the troops can remain focused is to find a way to keep in touch with loved ones back home.

"They need to make sure they find a way to make that phone call, send that e-mail or write that letter," she said. "It's hard to be away from home, but the troops need to make sure the folks back home understand they can continue hosting those family gatherings and various celebrations because of the job they're doing over here."

Pritchett went on to say the role of every Soldier, Sailor, Airman and Marine is important to winning the Global War on Terrorism, "no matter if you're sitting



Sgt. Jermaine Sampson

**Command Sgt. Maj. Cynthia Pritchett (center), CFC – A, talks to Soldiers at Observation Post 2 during a recent visit to Forward Operating Base Carlson in Paktika Province.**

**See *Pritchett*, Page 14**

# Recruiters earn medal for work with ANA

Story by Lt. Col. Susan H. Meisner  
Office of Military Cooperation – Afghanistan

KABUL, Afghanistan — Fort Jackson, S.C., recruiter Master Sgt. Tracy L. Cutler and Portland, Ore., recruiter Sgt. 1st Class Kirk E. Kobak received Bronze Star Medals at an Oct. 25 award ceremony here.

But it wasn't the awards that proved these two Soldiers successful at their mission here. The results of their efforts stand alone.

Air Force Maj. Gen. Craig Weston, Office of Military Cooperation – Afghanistan chief, presented the awards, citing Cutler's and Kobak's outstanding service in establishing the first Afghan National Army Recruiting Command and Afghan National Army Recruiting Academy.

Cutler, a Puyallup, Wash., native, served as the noncommissioned officer in charge of the recruiting mobile training team, recruiting assistance team at OMC-A. He deployed from the Soldier Support Institute at Fort Jackson's Recruiting and Retention School, serving in Afghanistan from March 22 to Nov. 2.

Kobak, a San Diego, Calif., native, served as the recruiting master trainer for training and doctrine development, recruiting mobile training team, recruiting assistance team at OMC-A. He deployed from the Portland Recruiting Battalion, and also

served from March to November.

When Cutler and Kobak (and a third recruiter, Sgt. 1st Class Richard Webre, who departed in June) arrived in country, three National Army Volunteer Centers were open and construction was under way on others. They traveled extensively around the country, assisting in the planning, stand-up and staffing of the new centers.

The recruiting mission is essential to the development of the country, which plans a 70,000-man national army to secure its stability and security. Today, 16,000 soldiers are in uniform, serving proudly around the country. Cutler and Kobak were instrumental in getting them there.

"We set up the systematic approach to recruiting, transitioning the Afghans from a conscripted to a volunteer army," said Cutler. "We came up with the policy and doctrine, from what the (recruiting command) general and his staff do, down to what the individual recruiter, kandak (battalion) commander and National Army Volunteer Center commander does."

And Cutler, Kobak and Webre developed and implemented the training program that stood up the recruiting academy, training the trainers who would train future classes of ANA recruiters.

"We came here with a blank sheet of paper," said Cutler. "We set up the program of instruction and the standing operating

procedures for how recruiting works. We trained the first 100 Afghan recruiters in 90 days.

Their partnership with Maj. Gen. Aziz Rahman, commander of the ANA Recruiting Command and his Chief of Staff, Brig. Gen. Ibrahim Ahmad Zai, was key to their success.

"These two (Cutler and Kobak) are recruiting experts and had very good experience in recruiting in the U.S.," said Zai. "When they first got here, they jointly conducted the first academy, and since then we have conducted three. As a result of their hard work, we graduated 300 officers and NCOs that right now are in the field and recruiting young men for the ANA."

The first recruiting academy graduates completed training in June, filling positions on the recruiting command staff and at NAVCs across the country.

While the army is all-volunteer, someone has to bring those young soldiers in. That person is the recruiter.

"There has to be a recruiting system to turn the light on for that young man or woman," said Cutler.

Without recruits – and the recruiters who bring them in – there wouldn't be an army.

"It was an honor to come here," said Cutler. "We've played a small part – at a historic moment – in helping stabilize the country."

## Religious Services Around the CJOA

### CFC-A

#### Sunday

0500 - Small Group Study  
0630 - Traditional Prot.  
1000 - Prot. Service - U.S. Emb.  
1330 - Catholic Mass - Italian Emb.  
1430 - Prot. Contemporary Praise  
1530 - Small Group Study 201  
1530 - Small Group Study 301

#### Tuesday

0930 - Chaplain's Call

#### Wednesday

1400 - Small Group Study 401

#### Friday

0830 - Latter-Day Saints  
1330 - Jewish Service  
1330 - Small Group Study 101

#### Saturday

0930 - Chaplain's Call  
1130 - Catholic Mass

### Camp Phoenix

#### Sunday

0430 - Catholic (Italian)  
0530 - Non-Denominational Prot.  
1330 - Catholic (French)  
1530 - Non-Denominational Prot.

#### Tuesday

1430 - Bible Study

#### Wednesday

1430 - Gospel Bible Study

#### Saturday

1430 - Gospel Worship Service

### FOB Salerno

#### Sunday

0300 - Foundations Bible Class  
0400 - Traditional Prot. Worship  
0530 - Latter-Day Saints Worship  
0830 - Gospel Service  
1400 - Inspirational Movie Night  
**Saturday**  
1500 - Contemporary Prot.

### Bagram Air Base

#### Sunday

0400 - Liturgical Prot.  
0530 - Roman Catholic Mass  
0830 - Latter-Day Saints  
0700 - Traditional Prot.  
1115 - Korean Language Prot.  
1300 - Gospel Service

#### Monday

1400 - Gospel Choir Rehearsal

#### Tuesday

1400 - Gospel Bible Study  
1545 - Prot. Music Rehearsal

#### Wednesday

1600 - Catholic Music Rehearsal

#### Thursday

1430 - Gospel Choir Rehearsal

#### Friday

1430 - Jewish Prayer  
1500 - Women's Bible Study

#### Saturday

0500 - Seventh-Day Adventist  
1330 - Korean Choir Rehearsal  
1515 - Roman Catholic Mass  
1630 - Prot. Choir Rehearsal

#### Daily, Monday-Friday

0700 - Roman Catholic Mass  
0745 - Noon-Day prayer

### Kandahar Airfield

#### Sunday

0430 - Catholic Mass  
0500 - Bible Study (325th FSB)  
0630 - Prot. Worship  
1330 - Gospel Choir Practice  
1400 - Sunday School  
1530 - Gospel Service

#### Monday

1300 - Gospel Choir Practice

#### Tuesday

1430 - Purpose-driven Life Study  
1300 - Gospel Choir Practice  
1430 - Praise Team Practice  
1530 - Bible Study

#### Wednesday

1300 - Gospel Choir Practice  
1430 - Praise Team Practice  
1530 - Prot. Worship

#### Thursday

1430 - Praise Team Practice  
1500 - Latter-Day Saints

#### Friday

0830 - Islamic Prayers  
1330 - Jewish Sabbath Prayers

#### Saturday

0400 - Men's Breakfast  
1300 - Catholic Mass  
1430 - Praise Team Practice

#### Daily, Monday-Friday

0330 - Catholic Mass

\* All times  
Zulu/GMT



# ENDURING IMAGES

*Combat Camera's lenses capture activities of Coalition around CJOA*



Staff Sgt. Joseph P. Collins

**Above:** British Royal Air Force Wing Commander Bruce Hedley (right) briefs the Right Honorable Geoffrey Hoon, British secretary of state for defense, on the cockpit controls of a Harrier jet during a visit to Kandahar Airfield Nov. 9.

**Right:** A Soldier from the Asadabad Provincial Reconstruction Team pulls guard during a humanitarian aid mission in Asadabad Nov. 16.



Sp. Harold Fields



Staff Sgt. Joseph P. Collins

**Left:** A local worker lays out school supplies destined for distribution to displaced families living on the outskirts of Jalalabad Nov. 16

**Below:** Spc. Julie Robinson, Jalalabad Provincial Reconstruction Team, talks to Afghan children during a humanitarian aid mission held for nearly 100 displaced families living on the outskirts of Jalalabad Nov. 16.



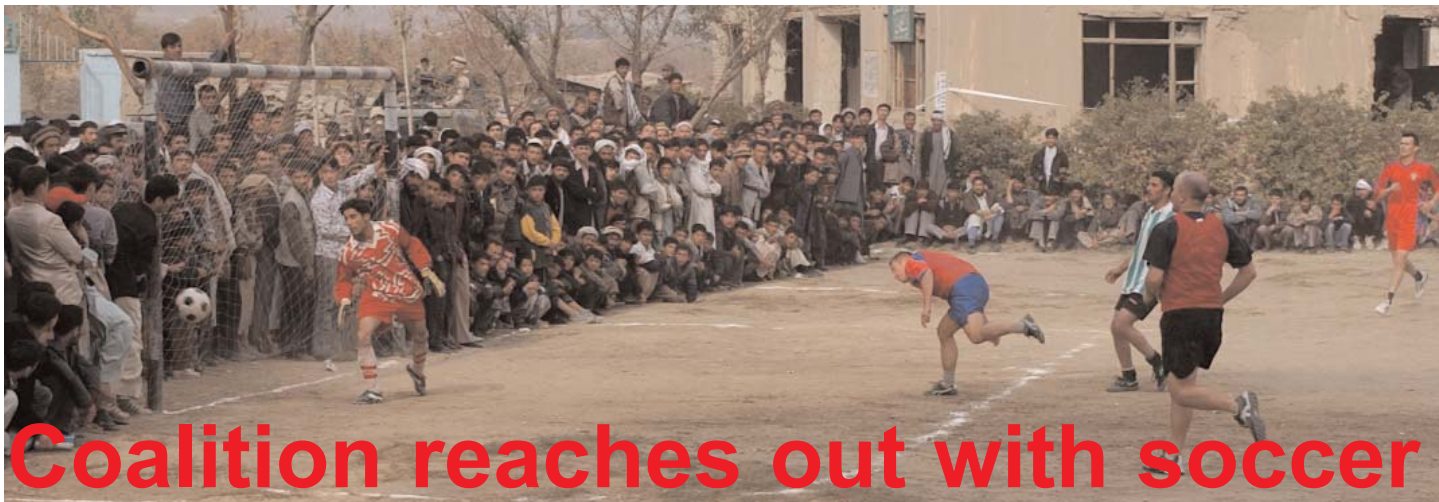
Spc. Johnny R. Aragon



Spc. Johnny R. Aragon

**Above:** Airmen from the 438th Air Expeditionary Group and service members from the Pakistan Army and Air Force, pay respects during the lowering of the U.S. and Pakistan national flags during a ceremony at Shahbaz Air Base, Pakistan, Nov. 19.





Story and photos by  
Spc. Chris Stump  
17th Public Affairs Detachment

CHARIKAR, Afghanistan — With a final score of 3-1, the Parwan Youth Soccer Team defeated its Coalition visitor, Team Eagle, at Parwan's home field in Charikar village Nov. 21.

After 60 minutes of "futbol," the crowd of nearly 1,000 cheered and rushed onto the field to congratulate their home team on a solid win.

But a win wasn't the only thing solidified with the match-up between the Coalition team and its Afghan hosts in central Afghanistan's Parwan Province. The match reinforced the Coalition's good intentions and the progress that allowed personnel to spend a peaceful morning playing soccer in the local community.

"It was beautiful. In the future I hope this can happen again," said Wahid Qanit, a youth soccer coach and interpreter for base operations on Bagram Air Base.

And with all that is planned for the future, it should happen again.

"I wanted to use soccer as a medium to reach out to the local community," said 1st



Lt. Joshua Walters, 2nd Battalion, 265th Air Defense Artillery Regiment and base operations intelligence officer. Walters is also a full-time high school soccer coach in his hometown of Tallahassee, Fla.

"The idea is to use soccer to reach out to the youth. They are the ones who will be making decisions about the future of Afghanistan pretty soon," he said.

To reach out, Walters is working with local leaders to promote soccer and eventually have men's, women's and youth soccer leagues throughout the country.

The game of soccer isn't just about reaching out to young Afghans for entertainment. It has the potential to serve as a centerpiece of Afghanistan's culture and draw people closer.

"I think soccer is a great tool to pull people together," said

**Above: Polish Cpl. Mariusz Kozak, a member of Team Eagle, scores a goal against the Parwan Youth Soccer Team during a match Nov. 21.**

**Left: The color guard bears the flags of each nation represented in the match.**

Walters. "There's a huge divide — soccer can give the country a national identity."

To help Afghans on their way to developing a national sport, Walters spends what little free time he has giving to the local community.

"I'm a soccer coach back home, so I thought it would be great to use that here to help the people," said Walters.

And the response has been great, as people are welcoming the sport "with open arms," he said.

"The amount of passion you see from them is amazing," he said.

And passion they showed during the match, never slowing down and playing like it was a Major League Soccer championship game.

"I'm very happy Coalition forces have come here to have a match against the team from Parwan province, it's good for (the) advancement of soccer and is something good for young men to do," said Mohammed Fayed, Imam Azam High School director and Bagram Post Exchange cashier.

It also makes one Coalition officer feel like he's contributing something great to a country that needs to unite.

"When I left home, and left coaching soccer, I felt like there was something missing," said Walters. "Since I've started getting Afghans involved in soccer, it feels like I've come full circle and am making a huge impact in these kids' lives.

"I've played in a lot of games, but this one was pretty cool," he said.

"Back home you play so many games, you forget individual ones, but the kids who watched this game will remember it forever."



**An Afghan player moves the ball past Coalition defenders during the match.**



# Plan, use caution to prevent winter accidents

## Safeguarding the Coalition

Story by Spc. Chris Stump  
17th Public Affairs Detachment

AFGHANISTAN — Even under the best conditions, Afghanistan's roads are a major safety concern for Coalition personnel. And winter weather brings out even more dangerous conditions drivers need to be aware of.

Thinking ahead and making the necessary preparations, like preventive maintenance checks and services, before heading out on a convoy operation, is just as important in the cold weather as during the summer months. But there are a few extra things to keep in mind before rolling off base.

Winter in Afghanistan almost certainly brings snow, ice, slick roads, and often decreased visibility, said Garrett Lozier, Combined Joint Task Force-76 safety officer.

The simplest, and best, way to combat the slippery conditions and the hazards that accompany them is to slow down, he said.

Accidents also happen at low speeds, however, so there's no substitute for driver and troop commander awareness.

"Drivers and TCs need to be especially aware in the winter months and be on the lookout for hazards," said Lozier.

Awareness doesn't mean waiting until personnel reach their start point though. Vehicle operators, both tactical and non-tactical — and all convoy participants — should thoroughly inspect the vehicle they will be using before they even put the key in the ignition.

"One important thing with an NTV or a tactical vehicle is a good PMCS — a thorough PMCS," said Lozier.

A thorough winter PMCS includes a few extra items that aren't needed for warm-weather driving.

Chains for tires, although not command-required, are highly advised, said Lozier. Also suggested are extra cold-weather clothing, tools and supplies to either extricate a stuck vehicle or spend some time in the cold waiting for assistance.

A few supplies troops could find invaluable are as simple as sand bags and an entrenching tool, items that are either issued to every Soldier or found just about anywhere.



Courtesy photo

**Using winter accessories, like snow chains, greatly enhances a vehicle's capability in less than ideal driving conditions.**

Sand bags serve a dual purpose in the rear-wheel drive non-tactical vehicles used throughout Afghanistan. They provide extra weight for traction when placed near the rear axles, and can serve as traction when emptied on the ground to the front or rear of tires.

If a vehicle does become stuck to the point where outside help is needed, the extra clothing can come in very handy, said Lozier.

"In the winter, the difference between day- and night-time temperatures can be deadly — or hazardous at the very least," he said.

While all these supplies are important in case of an emergency, some simple steps can prevent an emergency.

Knowing the route and planning ahead can all but eliminate the need for any extra supplies. Part of every convoy should include a risk assessment, convoy brief and a check with someone who knows road conditions, said Lozier.

Checking the latest intelligence on enemy activity is something almost everyone leaving the wire does, but inquiring about road conditions can also be a lifesaver during poor weather.

"You should check with someone who knows the roads and is out on them frequently," said Lozier. "MPs are always a good source for up-to-the-minute road conditions and route conditions."

The local Base Defense Operations Center can also provide up-to-date information on convoy routes.

A risk assessment is an important part of convoy operations, too, he said. If the roads are just too bad to make it to the destination safely, it's not worth the risk.

When everything has been checked and double checked, and the route and conditions are known, the convoy brief is the last, and one of the most important, steps before driving off base.

"During our convoy briefs, we discuss the rate of speed and intervals for the duration of the convoy," said Sgt. Doug Kruse, Task Force 168 team leader. "Once it starts getting colder and icing over during the night, we will start discussing and altering speeds and intervals in accordance with the road conditions."

Altering speeds and intervals could be the thing that saves personnel on the dangerous roads, especially those lacking winter driving experience.

"Use common sense and extreme caution if you're unfamiliar on how to handle a vehicle on slick roads," said Lozier.

"But in the middle of a mission isn't the time to learn," he added.

Drivers are encouraged to learn from their units' master drivers and even the provost marshal's office. Both have lessons learned to share with both new and experienced drivers alike.

Using common sense, technical manuals and lessons learned are all valuable tools in the fight to stay safe, but nothing is more important than leaders enforcing standards.

"Leaders need to be present, making sure their Soldiers are doing the right thing," said Lozier.

With leaders doing what needs to be done to ensure their troops are performing tasks, like maintenance, to standard, and all personnel using common sense and caution while driving, said Lozier, the Coalition will continue to see a decline in accidents.

# Air Force engineers help Army build field bases

Story and photo by  
Air Force Staff Sgt. Jennifer Lindsey  
455th Expeditionary Operations Group

BAGRAM AIR BASE, Afghanistan — Deployed service members who enjoy the luxury of a hot shower or paved landing strips have engineers to thank for the improvements made in Afghanistan.

Those engineers include an 11-Airman team that works alongside the Army engineers of Combined Task Force Coyote, designing airfields, water delivery systems, wastewater disposal systems and buildings.

“When I see Soldiers and Marines returning from the field, it feels good to know they’re going to enjoy a hot shower, flushing toilets and have a comfortable bed to sleep in, because of the work we do,” said Air Force Engineer Lt. Col. Paul Blanzky.

For their service in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, Maj. Gen. Eric T. Olson, Combined Joint Task Force-76 commander, awarded the team of Airmen, as well as the many other CTF Coyote service members, the wartime service patch in a ceremony Nov. 11.

The Air Force engineers wear the “combat patch” throughout their deployment. Soldiers awarded the patch have the option to continue wearing the shoulder-sleeve insignia throughout their Army careers. Air Force instructions permitting the wear of the patch when the Airmen return to their duty station are currently under review.

With or without the patch, improving the quality of life for deployed troops and Afghans is what keeps these engineers drawing up designs well into the end of their shift, said Blanzky.



**Combined Task Force Coyote troops salute during the playing of the National Anthem before receiving shoulder-sleeve insignia for former wartime service.**

“These guys have never shirked from any job they’ve been given, because they know we’re all working for a greater purpose,” he said. “It’s tough at times — they have careers at home that are on hold and family they miss being away from, but they continue giving 100 percent.”

Some of the Air National Guard engineers, such as Air Force Maj. Scott Nall and Air Force Capt. Fabian Grabski, will continue designing airfields and water and sanitary systems after shedding their DCUs for civilian attire at the tour’s end in late January. Others, such as Air Force Master Sgt. Korey Goldcynski and Air Force Maj. Darren Guttmann, will trade their eight-point hats for a police officer’s cap and a book on environmental regulations. However, no matter how much the men look forward to sharing time with their families and taking a leisurely Sunday drive, the guardsmen said it’s an honor to contribute to making the world

a safer place.

“Look in every direction around you ... Task Force Coyote is turning Bagram into what it is today — a power projection platform from which all that is being done for the people of this country couldn’t have been done without you,” said Olson to the troops after handing each of the 100-plus members in formation his combat patch. “Building up the infrastructure and transportation routes, Task Force Coyote is paving the way to a better future in Afghanistan.”

It’s that sense of accomplishment that sustains the Air Force engineers to continue designing with quality-of-life improvements foremost in their minds.

“What we’re doing here in support of the Global War on Terrorism is important,” said Air Force Engineer Maj. William Morales. “Later in life, we’ll tell our grandchildren stories about our service here with pride.”

## Pritchett: CSM answers nation’s call to service

*continued from Page 9*

here at the headquarters or occupying a foxhole at a forward operating base.

“I’ve said all along it’s better to fight the fight over here than on our own soil,” she said. “But whether you’re back home in the Continental United States or deployed to Afghanistan, Iraq or anywhere else in the world, everyone’s job is equally important.”

Pritchett said the long-term goal for Coalition forces in Afghanistan is to

“work ourselves out of a job” as the government and the people of Afghanistan become more self-sufficient and capable in their security.

“I think it’s very rewarding whenever you have an opportunity to put your training to practical use,” she said. “This is what I believe all Soldiers train for. No one wants to go to war. But when your branch is called into service, I think everyone would choose to be in the fight.”

Pritchett, whose awards include three Legions of Merit, the Bronze Star and

three Meritorious Service Medals, could choose to retire at any time. But right now, she’s due to remain in Afghanistan until 2006.

That suits her just fine.

“I’ll serve wherever the Army wants me to go,” she said. “I’m not worried about what’s next. I just try to concentrate on doing the best job I can where I am.”

Right now, that job is being with troops on the ground in the country where the attack against our homeland on 9/11 originated.



# Electricians power up Firebase Lagman

Story and photo by  
Sgt. Jennifer S. Emmons  
17th Public Affairs Detachment

FIREBASE LAGMAN, Afghanistan — As generators hum throughout Firebase Lagman in Zabul province, the electricians from Company B, 926th Engineer Battalion, work to keep the lights and heat on, and the computers and radios running.

"In the (tactical operations center), which is the nerve center of the operations for this company, all their equipment is electrical," said Sgt. 1st Class Phillip Baker, Co. B, 926th Eng. Bn., platoon sergeant. "So without electricity you don't have a mission."

Besides the tactical equipment, electricity is needed for many other things on the firebase.

"If you don't have electricity, you aren't going to be able to refrigerate food," said Master Sgt. Johnny Bonds, Co. B, 926th Eng. Bn., operations non-commissioned officer. "You aren't going to be able to feed these troops the fresh fruits that they are getting. There go your cooking capabilities as well. We would all probably be eating (meals ready to eat)."

Electricity is also needed to run the wells so there is water to shower.

"It plays a part in almost everything you discuss out here on the firebase," he said.

Electricity is important in these

remote locations, said Spc. Valerie Bunch, Co. B, 926th Eng. Bn., electrician.

"It runs all the communications equipment and the little amenities the Soldiers like to have," she said. "It's great."

Also important to the Soldiers are the heating units the electricity powers.

"It's getting to the cold months of the year and heat is very important to the Soldiers," said Bonds.

Not only are the electricians maintaining existing systems, they are also working closely with the vertical engineers as new buildings go up.

"As the carpenters build new buildings, we install the electrical equipment," said Bunch. "After they put the roofs on them, we go in and put all the wiring in, and hook up to power."

This is a job that can be very time consuming and requires dedication.

The electricians in the unit do quality work, always willing to do what needs to be done to accomplish the mission, said Bonds. If a generator goes out in the middle of the night, the electricians



**Sgt. Randall Jorenby (right) and Spc. Valerie Bunch perform routine maintenance on one of their unit's generators. Generators produce all electrical power for the firebase.**

don't hesitate to get it working again, sometimes relying on flashlights to help them see.

The unit also has a master electrician with a great depth of civilian-acquired experience to bring to the table, said Baker.

Being part of building the firebase from the ground up is a great experience for the electricians.

"I've learned so much since I've been here," said Bunch. "I get to see (the results of) my work almost immediately. As soon as we're done, you have a whole new building. Then you move on to the next."

## Letters to the Editor

The *Freedom Watch* would like to publish your opinions on topics of importance and interest to those serving in OEF.

Please send your thoughts in letter form to the editor. All letters e-mailed must include full name, unit, address and, when possible, telephone number. We will not print anonymous letters. Please limit all letters to 200 words or less.

We reserve the right to edit letters for length, clarity and decorum.

Please avoid implying criticism of U.S. or DoD policies and programs, advocating or disputing specific political, diplomatic or legislative matters, or implying criticism of host nation or host nation sensitivities.

Please send your letters to:  
carls@baf.afgn.army.mil

We look forward to hearing from you!

## OEF "Values" Essay Contest

All personnel serving in Afghanistan are invited to participate in the Operation Enduring Freedom bi-monthly "Values" Essay Contest sponsored by CJTF-76.

The current value is "*Integrity*."

### Rules

- ☐ Essays should include the definition of the featured value and your own experience(s) that reinforce this value
- ☐ Essays will be at least one and no more than two pages (typed/neatly printed and double-spaced)
- ☐ Please include a cover page with Title, Author's Name, Supervisor's Name, Unit/Organization, Phone Number and e-mail address if available
- ☐ Do not put name directly on essay
- ☐ Submit essays to EO Adviser nearest your location, via e-mail or hard copy by Dec. 10.

The winning essay writer will receive a Commanding General's Certificate of Achievement and other prizes to be announced. The essay will also be published in a future issue of the *Freedom Watch*, and in the bi-monthly EO Update.

EO is also looking for E-7s and above to help review essay submissions and select the winning essay.

Call the Bagram EO Senior Adviser at DSN 318-231-3021 for more information.

# Courage

